

Amendment
Serial No. 10/662,323
Attorney Docket No. 031013

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1, 3 and 6 are herein amended.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected because “the work area” and “said diagnostic tool” lack proper antecedent basis. In response, Applicants herein amend the claims in order to provide for sufficient antecedent basis. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Weber et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184360).

It is the position of the Office Action that Weber discloses the invention as claimed. Weber is directed at a method and apparatus for managing devices. As illustrated in Figure 2, the apparatus includes a management station 206 connected to devices 204 via a network 202. The management station 206 includes locating application 208. Management station 206 is connected to local storage 210 via a communication link 216. However, this local storage 210 may be within the management station 206. Within the local storage 210 or the management

station 206 is management applet repository 212, containing applets 214. Each applet 214 corresponds to a device 204. In an alternative embodiment illustrated in Figure 3, the local storage 210 is connected to network 218, and is connected to management station 206 via communication path 220. See paragraphs [0040] to [0042].

The applets perform the following functions: (1) Discovering the managed device and presenting them on a display, (2) understanding and maintaining an association between the discovered managed devices and the management interface application programs, (3) providing a user interface for the management interface application programs, and (4) listening for events from discovered devices and providing notifications. See paragraphs [0052]-[0056].

The Office Action interprets the management station 206 to be a database server and interprets the applets 214 to be a diagnosis execution unit. The Office Action states that there is inherently a human-machine interface in the system. The Office Action broadly interprets Weber's disclosure of managing, monitoring, and configuring devices as "diagnosis."

In response, Applicants herein amend claim 1 in order to clarify the location of the claimed elements. Specifically, the amended claims recite a database server 7 and a client 8, with the client 8 comprising the diagnosis execution unit 13 and human-machine interface 15. Additionally, Applicants herein amend the claims to recite that the diagnosis results are stored in the database server 7. Support for this amendment is found in Figure 3, on page 8, line 14 to page 9, line 2, and on page 15, lines 8-11.

Weber merely states in paragraph [0042] that the management station 206 retrieves the appropriate management application 214 and processes it. The management application 214 then

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performs the necessary functionality to manage, monitor and/or configure the particular device. Nothing in Weber mentions storing any diagnosis results in the management station 206. Furthermore, Weber does not teach any diagnostic activities.

On the other hand, in the present invention, diagnosis is performed on the device, *i.e.*, problems are detected and the cause of the problem is determined. The data to be diagnosed 7a is stored in the server 7. This data to be diagnosed 7a is then processed on the side of the client PC 8 by the diagnosis execution unit 13. The diagnosis results are then stored in the diagnostic work area 7b in the server 7. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the recited structure is not disclosed or suggested by Weber. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

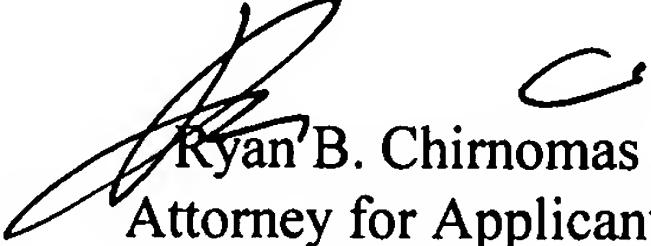
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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